

June 1999

Number 7

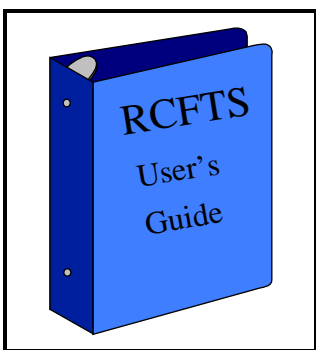
# RCFTS NEWS

This is the seventh issue of the RCFTS News. We hope it is helpful, informative and of interest to you. If there are any comments or suggestions, feel free to express them to any of the Review Board Members. Please make sure that everyone who works with RCFTS in your State gets a copy of this newsletter. We only send out the newsletter to the Coordinators listed on the RCFTS Coordinators List.

The newsletter and Coordinators List can now be obtained from the internet at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/rcfts.htm>.



## NEW RCFTS USER'S GUIDES!



The revised RCFTS User's Guides are now available. Copies were distributed to all RCFTS Coordinator's at the meeting in St. Louis and should be reproduced accordingly (they are not obtainable by order). Please consult the RCFTS website for future revisions to the Guide at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/rcfts.htm>.

You might want to review the status code appendices in the back of the Users Guide. In an effort to prepare for the interface between the Guaranteed Loan System (GLS) and RCFTS, status codes for the CP and BI sides in RCFTS should now be common to both (with similar definitions). For instance, there is no longer a "301" status code on the BI side; it is now "302," just as on the CP side. If there are any questions, contact a member of the SRB Board.



## RFA UPDATES

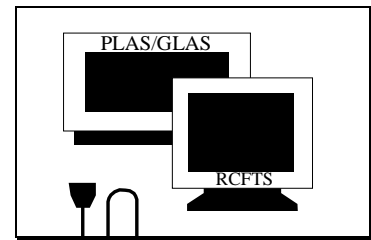
- The RFA modifying FOCUS Report BI05 to report all Conditional Commitment dates is in production and you should now be able to run that report.

- The RFA adding FOCUS data elements for Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLGs) borrowers on the CP side has been turned over and that information should now be available.
- The RFA adding FOCUS data elements to RCCP for the CP and WW Subsidiary Tracking Information screen has been turned over and that information can now be captured.

ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

For those of you who may not be aware, data contained in any fields in RCFTS (CP and BI) which download from either PLAS or GLAS is not reliable and, by extension, neither are the FOCUS reports (i.e., payment collection and delinquencies reports) which depend upon that information. A major effort is currently underway to identify and correct the problem with the interface between RCFTS and PLAS/GLAS.



ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

## **NEW NAICS CODES**

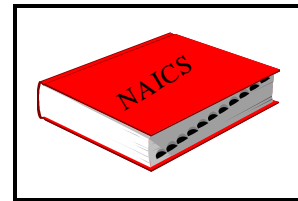
There appears to be some confusion regarding the new NAICS codes. Hopefully, the following will help clarify the issue.

There is a pending RFA which will convert all of the existing Community Facilities (CF) SIC codes to their corresponding NAICS codes (NOTE: this does not include BP borrowers, only CF). It is anticipated this RFA will be implemented in August, after which we will notify you when to begin using the NAICS system. Until then we will continue to use the SIC codes.

**NOTE: RCFTS will shut down for three days (August 9-11) while the NAICS conversion is taking place!**

For CF borrowers, you will continue to use only those SIC codes currently identified in Appendix B (until the conversion takes place, at which time the Appendix will be revised to reflect the new NAICS codes). The last page of the revised Appendix B will also list any NAICS codes which will be used for BP borrowers tracked on the CP subsystem (i.e., RBEGs). There might be occasions when a NAICS code will be required for tracking an ultimate recipient for an RBEG revolving loan or a REDLG, but normally there would be no other reason to consult the NAICS Manual for borrowers in the CP subsystem.

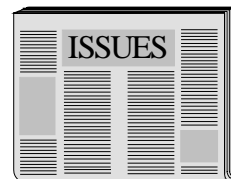
As on the CP side, BP borrowers will continue using SIC codes until the conversion. SIC/NAICS codes are required in all cases for borrowers tracked on the BP subsystem, with the exception of HHS, RDLF, IRP, IRP Disaster and IRPZ loans, which will use NAICS code 6153. However, unlike CF borrowers, there is no appendix listing specific SIC/NAICS codes for BP borrowers (it would be too voluminous). Therefore, if you have not already done so you will need to order a NAICS Manual. For more information or to order online, you can visit the NTIS NAICS website at <http://www.ntis.gov/naics>.



TO SUMMARIZE, after the conversion the NAICS codes will be used for both the CP and BP subsystems. However, remember the NAICS Manual should be used exclusively for BP borrowers, not CF. The only exception will be tracking ultimate recipients on the CP side for RBEG revolving loans and REDLGs (which are technically BP programs -- they're just tracked on the CP side). The only valid NAICS codes for CF borrowers will be specified in revised Appendix B -- if you attempt to use a NAICS code for a CF borrower which is not listed in Appendix B, your record will not update.

ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

## RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE



### COORDINATOR'S MEETING - ST. LOUIS - MAY 1999

There were a lot of concerns and suggestions proffered at the recent Coordinator's Meeting in St. Louis. Some of them are already in the RFA process while others are being written up as future RFAs. The ones which could not be addressed by writing an RFA are identified below.

**Concern:** Expand canned reports to include date reviewed for quarterly reports.

**Response:** Under FmHA Instruction 1942-A, quarterly reports are required during the first three years a project becomes operational, or for borrowers experiencing financial or management problems. This is required each time a borrower obtains Rural Development financing.

RUS Instruction 1780 revised this requirement for water and waste borrowers to only the first year for new borrowers and for all borrowers experiencing financial or management problems for one year from the date problems were noted.

**Note:** CF borrowers still follow FmHA Instruction 1942-A for quarterly report requirements.

The Systems Review Board is proposing the use of the "Other Use" field for monitoring the review of these reports. Please provide any comments (pro or con) regarding this proposed solution.

**Concern:** Updating Status Codes for Preapplications/Applications.

**Response:** The concern here was for older preapps/apps which were still active but showed a current status code with a date which would be considered old and questionable. For example, let's say you have a borrower with a current status date of 10/01/97. Most recently, on 01/01/99, the field office received some additional information, either by mail or per telephone call, regarding the progress of the preapp/app. The loan/grant status date could be changed to 01/01/99, thereby showing this request is still active.

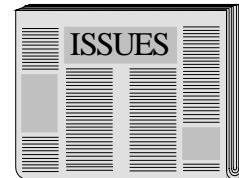
NOTE: This only applies to the dates in the CURRENT STATUS lines (at the top of the screen) for loan and grant. All historical data (below the current status lines) should remain intact and unchanged.

Remember, all you're trying to accomplish here is to establish this preapp/app is currently still active and should not be withdrawn for lack of activity.

*If you have any questions, contact Robin Pulkkinen in the National Office.*



## RURAL HOUSING SERVICE



### **CF EZ/EC COMBINATION (GUARANTEED LOAN/GRANT) = TOA 272**

The last newsletter introduced a new TOA code--272. It went on to say that you would use TOA code 272 for the EZ/EC guaranteed/grant combinations IN RCFTS ONLY, while in PLAS (and GLS) use TOA code 273 for the guaranteed portion and TOA code 272 for the grant portion.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS CHANGED.** Use TOA code 272 for an EZ/EC guaranteed/grant combination for RCFTS AND PLAS! TOA 273 will no longer be a valid code in PLAS.

### **SOURCE OF FUNDS CODES**

NOTE: "E" is NOT a valid Source of Funds code. At one point "E" was designated for CF direct EZ/EC; however, this is incorrect. If you have used an "E" code, please make the correction. Sorry for the confusion.

Therefore, besides the present Source of Funds codes "0" through "9" and "A," "B," and "C," there are only three new codes, as follows:

F = REDL Rural Economic Development Loan  
 G = REDG Rural Economic Development Grant  
 H = Guaranteed Loan & Grant Combination.

### **CLASSIFYING CF GUARANTEED LOANS.**

Once the guaranteed loan closing has been processed through ADPS, the guaranteed loan can be classified on RCFTS. This can be accomplished on the Funding and User Information (Part 1) screen at the Loan Classification Code field. All direct loan classifications will need to be processed through an 8N transaction.

*If you have any questions, contact Andrea Barnett in the National Office.*



## **RURAL BUSINESS SERVICE**



### **RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION ASSISTANCE:**

Screen BI57 has been modified to track authorized assistance to facilitate economic opportunity for industries undergoing adjustment from terminated Federal agricultural price and income support programs or increased competition from foreign trade.

Definition of Terminated Federal Agricultural Price and Income Support Programs. An example would be the phase out of the former ASCS price support and loan programs for farmers. If an applicant was affected by this, enter a "T" on Screen BI57.

Definition of Increased Competition from Foreign Trade. There have been various laws which have eased restrictions on trade by and with foreign businesses, i.e., the North American Free Trade Agreement. Therefore, the 1996 Farm Bill mandated B&I guaranteed loans could be made to businesses to help them continue to operate despite the loss of price supports and/or foreign competition. If an applicant meets this criteria, enter a "T" on Screen BI57.

### **ULTIMATE RECIPIENT SCREENS:**

The Ultimate Recipient screen will display all records by FY in ascending order (this will also affect the CP side for RBEGs and REDLGs).

The ultimate recipient advance information on this screen should be updated as follows:

PROGRAM	UPDATE
Intermediary Relending Program	Once a check request has been processed.
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	After the ultimate recipient's application has been approved by the Agency.
Rural Economic Development Loan/Grant Program	When a loan/grant request has been processed.

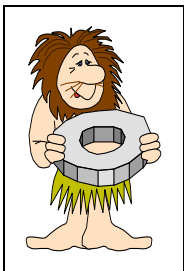
**APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTING SCREENS** have been revised to include information for the following new loan programs:

- Business and Industry (B&I) North American Development Bank Guaranteed Loans.
- Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed EZ/EC loans.

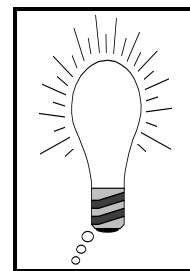
These loans can now be obligated through ADPS. It is no longer necessary to obligate these loans manually.

*If you have any questions, contact Sylvia Neal in the National Office.*





If you have any questions, problems or suggestions, please notify a RCFTS System Review Board (SRB) member listed below. Your input could be invaluable.



ANDREA BARNETT, CP - N/O

202/720-0487

abarnett@rdmail.rural.usda.gov

DIANE BERGER, MN- S/O

661/602-7812

diane.berger@mn.usda.gov

SYLVIA NEAL, BP - N/O

202/720-2811

sneal@rurdev.usda.gov

ROBIN PULKKINEN, WW - N/O

202/720-9636

rpulkin@rurdev.usda.gov

ANN RANKIN, KY - S/O

606/224-7336

arankin@rdasun2.rurdev.usda.gov

JEANNE THIELS, LA - S/O

318/473-7940

jthiels@rdmail.rural.usda.gov